

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 /080 W
-----081925 230532Z /23

R 221945Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 444
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2431

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBORN HO, ES
SUBJ: BORDER DISPUTE REACTIONS

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 2240, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 1331 (NOTAL),
(C) TEGUCIGALPA 1992

1. AS IN EL SALVADOR, OTHER EVENTS HAVE OVERSHADOWED INTEREST
IN PROGRESS OF BORDER DISPUTE MEDIATION PROCESS AND IT HAS BEEN
REPLACED ON THE FRONT PAGES BY MORE SPECTACULAR ITEMS. NEVER-
THELESS, THESE ARE NOT AS SERIOUS, NOR IS THE INTERNAL SITUATION
NEARLY AS TENSE, AS THAT DESCRIBED IN MANAGUA AND SAN SALVADOR.
GOH OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO PLACE PRIORITY ATTENTION ON BORDER
MEDIATION EFFORTS.

2. THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE A GROWING RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE
THAT THE FIVE OUT OF SEVEN ISSUES ON WHICH AGREEMENT WAS NOT
REACHED BY THE TWO SIDES FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MEDIATOR ON MAY 3
WILL NOT BE RESOLVED RAPIDLY, INCLUDING BORDER DELINEATION.
REACTIONS VARY, BUT MOST COMMENTARY HAS ACCEPTED THIS DEVELOP-
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MENT PHILOSOPHICALLY, EITHER NOTING REALITY OF DIFFICULT SAL-
VADORAN INTERNAL PROBLEMS, OR NOT BEING SURPRISED AT WHAT IS
VIEWED AS YET ANOTHER SALVADORAN DELAYING TACTIC.

3. COMMENT: ALL EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH HONDURAN OFFICIALS CON-
TINUE TO REFLECT ACCEPTANCE OF GOES WITHDRAWAL FROM WHAT GOH
HAD THOUGHT WAS AN AGREEMENT FOR RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER DE-

LINEATION PROBLEM AND A DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS THROUGH THE MEDIATION PROCESS, ALBEIT WITH LESS OPTIMISM OVER THE FINAL RESULTS. RECENT ARMS PURCHASES ANNOUNCEMENTS (SUPER MYSTERES NUMBER 9 AND 10, SCORPION TANKS) ARE RESULT OF BUYING PROCESS BEGUN UP TO PERHAPS A YEAR AGO AND THEREFORE DOES NOT REFLECT DISAPPOINTMENT GENERATED BY FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT EL POY AGREEMENTS OR A DECISION TO ARM BASED UPON THAT FAILURE. EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CONCRETE PLANS TO ACQUIRE NEW, MAJOR ARAMENTS IN THE NEAR TERM AS A RESULT OF GOH EXPECTATION OF A MORE LENGTHY MEDIATION PROCESS. WHILE THE USG HAS ALREADY APPROVED PURCHASE OF SUPER MYSTERES NUMBER 11 AND 12 (REF C), THE GOH HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY FORMAL STEPS, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, TO ACQUIRE THEM, ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BE THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP.

JARAMILLO

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